

NEWS RELEASE



a division of the
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION, P.O. Box 1368, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Colonel Jerry E. Adams, Commissioner

For further information contact:

Corporal Nicholas R. Humphrey
Public Information & Safety Education
Phone: (573)-751-3333
Fax: (573)-522-1287
E-mail: Nick.Humphrey@mswp.dps.mo.gov
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jefferson City, Missouri

Water Patrol Officer and St. Louis Boater Save Lives on Norfolk River and Lake of the Ozarks

Sergeant Wayne Talburt was on patrol on the Norfolk River about ½ mile below Dawt Mill Bridge around 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, 5/29/2004. He saw Larry D. Maynard of Mountain Home, Arkansas with several other individuals getting off tubes to swim in the river. Sergeant Talburt saw Mr. Maynard flail his arms in the air several times and disappear beneath the water surface. Mr. Maynard's daughter began to scream for help. Sergeant Talburt maneuvered his patrol boat to the area in which Mr. Maynard was last seen and dove into the river. Sergeant Talburt located Mr. Maynard's motionless body in about 10 feet of water. Sergeant Talburt opened Mr. Maynard's airway so that he could begin breathing and, with the help of Mr. Maynard's family, was able to pull Mr. Maynard into his patrol boat. Mr. Maynard continued to breathe on his own but remained unconscious. Mr. Maynard was life-flighted to Baxter County Regional Hospital in Mountain Home, Arkansas where he was admitted to the intensive care unit. Mr. Maynard made a full recovery from his near drowning and was released from the hospital late in the evening. Sergeant Talburt's actions undoubtedly saved Mr. Maynard's life.

Michael Budak was piloting his 33 foot Baja offshore boat through the rough waters at the 2 ½ mile mark of the Glaize arm of Lake of the Ozarks at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, 5/29/2004. He became airborne several times before his vessel came down on the water on its side and ejected him overboard. Mr. Budak's leg was broken when he was ejected and his passenger was thrown into the dash and received serious injuries. With the passenger incapacitated, the driverless 33 foot Baja began to circle Mr. Budak who was attempting to tread water with a broken leg. The boat was coming closer and closer to Mr. Budak when Kevin Gilbers of St. Louis saw the dangerous situation and decided to act. Mr. Gilbers was operating a pontoon boat which afforded little protection against the large fiberglass Baja. Mr. Gilbers attempted to position his pontoon boat next to the circling Baja, but the rough water caused the Baja to turn sharply into Mr. Gilber's pontoon. The driverless Baja with the critically injured passenger still onboard pierced the side of Gilber's pontoon and came to rest on the bow of the pontoon. The Baja then began to drag the pontoon boat in its circular path and continued to get closer to the injured Mr. Budak who was unable to swim away with his broken leg. With no regard for his personal safety, Kevin Gilbers leapt onboard the Baja and turned off the engine undoubtedly saving the life of Mr. Budak. A passing boater happened to be an off-duty paramedic and

drove the Baja with the critically injured passenger to meet an ambulance. A Water Patrol Officer arrived on the scene and stayed with Mr. Budak until a fire boat could safely extricate him from the water to prevent any further damage to his broken leg. Mr. Budak remains hospitalized and his passenger remains in intensive care at Lake of the Ozarks Regional Hospital.

Watch the Missouri State Water Patrol homepage at www.mswp.state.mo.us for updates on Boating Safety Courses in your area.

MISSOURI STATE WATER PATROL
Telephone (573) 751-3333
Home Page <http://www.mswp.state.mo.us>